

I hope we don't hear from the other side about being responsible economically. Mr. President, that is \$75 billion for 3 years.

That wasn't good enough for the House of Representatives. Do you know what they said? We will give you 2 years, but we have \$122 billion in unpaid-for tax cuts where 94 percent of the benefits go to the top fifth. Is that not interesting? We have to take care of the small little mom-and-pop stores; we have to help them out. We are interested in doing that. We would work with our Republican friends in terms of the mom-and-pop stores. Our Democratic leader indicated a willingness to do that. We did it in the last minimum wage increase. We are glad to take modest steps in order to be able to do that. We heard we are going to have some tax expenditures in order to protect the mom-and-pop stores. Except under this tax cut, mom-and-pop stores aren't helped; 94 percent goes to the top fifth.

Maybe that goes over in some areas of the country, but we want our friends on the other side to know this issue will not go away.

When we have that kind of action that has been taken previously, a delayed minimum wage increase spread out over 3 years, added to a \$75 billion in unpaid-for tax expenditures, it makes me wonder. How many times have we come on the floor of the Senate saying: Let's do something about Head Start; let's do something about immunization, or on mental health. How much will it cost? Is it paid for? Is it paid for? Is it paid for? Well, you are not getting that, Senator.

I don't know what happened to that particular position where we have now \$75 billion and \$122 billion in play, holding that minimum wage hostage to benefit the wealthiest individuals in this country.

Can we justify that? Is it a position that is defensible? I don't believe so. It is wrong. Fundamentally, it is wrong.

This issue is basically a women's issue because the majority of those who receive the minimum wage are women. It is a children's issue because many women who are receiving the minimum wage have children. This is about the quality of life. As the Council of Economic Advisers has pointed out, the children in minimum-wage families spend 22 hours a week less with their parents than they did 20 years ago.

When we talk about the minimum wage, it is a family issue. It is a civil rights issue because many of the people who earn the minimum wage are people of color. And it is a fairness issue because it says in the United States we stand for men and women who work hard, play by the rules, and they ought not to live in poverty. We believe the overwhelming majority of Americans support it.

I thank our leader for bringing this matter to the Senate again and for all of the leadership he has provided. I am proud to stand with some of my colleagues on this side who have stood for that kind of increase and for the brave few on the other side who have joined. As the leader has pointed out, we will have this issue up one way or the other. It will come back again and again and again until we get fairness in our society for working men and women.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I hope people listened to the words of the Senator from Massachusetts. He couldn't be more right on; namely, it is the right thing to do. Purely and simply, it is the right thing to do. For that reason only I urge Members of the Senate and my colleagues to take requisite action to get to the issue, pass the minimum wage, and do the right thing, which is pass this very significant increase in minimum wage.

#### TRIBUTE TO SEAN-MICHAEL MILES

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I want to pay tribute to a young man, Sean-Michael Miles. Slightly over a year ago, his life was taken tragically in an automobile accident in Bozeman, MT, while he was home celebrating the Christmas holidays with his family. Everyone privileged to know Sean was touched by his contagious zest for life. He was among the very best to emerge from our State, from "The Last Best Place." He was a shining star. He is my friend.

Sean's father and I grew up as neighbors. We went to school together and remained close friends ever since. I might add, Sean's grandmother, affectionately known as Granny Miles, was one of my baby sitters. I know this family well. Their strength and love for one another is an inspiration to all of us who know them. Sean-Michael's future was as bright as one could imagine. He graduated at the top of his class in Bozeman High School in 1997 and was selected by his classmates to deliver the commencement address. That same address, filled with familiar compassion for our Native American heritage, is still talked about today. Such was its honesty, its power, its celebration of promise.

At Princeton University, where Sean was in his second year, he was admired as an exceptional writer, an accomplished artist and musician. Perhaps a classmate put it best: Sean was totally brilliant and completely humble, a cool combination.

Following his graduation from Princeton, Sean intended to return to his beloved Montana and commit himself to a career dedicated to writing and the preservation of our last re-

maining wildlands. Sean enjoyed considerable gifts, and was truly living up to them.

Sean wanted to make the world a better place, and believed completely that one person can truly make a difference. There was no cynicism in his life. He befriended the friendless, and remembered the forgotten. Above all, he was making a difference. It is a loss beyond Montana's boundaries as well. Professor John McPhee of Princeton echoed such sentiments:

By my lights, Sean-Michael Miles was the best that we can do—bright, responsive, hardworking, clear in expression, clear in thought, and with a personality immediately likable, immediately demanding respect. We will all miss him terribly.

Sean enjoyed a way with words. I would like to share a small piece of his brilliant work.

After climbing atop a remote buffalo jump, he discovered the "drive lines" that the Native tribes of our region used centuries ago to funnel herds of bison over the cliff's edge. Looking out beyond that edge, toward the vast expanse of the Absoorka Beartooth Wilderness, Sean wrote:

Whenever I think of the changes sweeping over Montana like a spring storm, a lump forms in my throat. My first breath was drawn from mountain air.

Yet I know that this land may pay a price for being beautiful, as change advances, carrying with it the prospect of loss. It is a land I desperately love. It is a part of me. It hurts so much to care so much. Yet as a Westerner, I am invited to breathe it all in deeply each day.

Despite change and loss, a drive line containing wisdom offered through memories stretches before me. For now I am satisfied to walk along its path, eyes fixed on what remains a geography of hope.

Sean-Michael Miles was proud to live his entire life surrounded by the majestic spine of mountains that he fondly referred to with the Blackfeet phrase, "the backbone of the world."

Sean's death casts a dark shadow over the future of those of us who knew and loved him. Yet it is the light he offers that we commemorate today.

I have risen today to announce that I will create a fellowship in Sean's name that will focus on the conservation issues that were so dear to him. I am also pleased and honored to announce that the first Congressional Fellow serving in this prestigious position will be Sean's beloved sister Michelle. Her younger sister, Shaleen, once served as Democratic page on the floor of the Senate. So today, Michelle, who is sitting behind me, I welcome you to my staff, and I know that you bring with you your brother's finest qualities. May the legacy of Sean-Michael Miles, who walked with the silent feet of reverence through the wilds, forever serve as a source of inspiration for generations to come.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia.